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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/916,918	07/27/2001	Radu Victor Balan	2001P13674 US	8793

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Siemens Corporation
Intellectual Property Department
186 Wood Avenue South
Iselin, NJ 08830

EXAMINER

OPSASNICK, MICHAEL N

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2655

DATE MAILED: 10/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/916,918

Applicant(s)

BALAN ET AL.

Examiner

Michael N. Opsasnick

Art Unit

2655

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 October 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1,3-11,14,15,17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leahy et al (6219045) in view of Wakisaka et al (5917944).

As per claims 1,14, and 15, Leahy et al (6219045) teaches a virtual environment system (abstract) comprising:

“an acoustic localizer....environment” as determining the sound location (col. 5 lines 1-10)

“a user data...remote data...system controller.....I/O device” as client/server relationship (Fig. 2);

“wherein control of said remote data.....localizer” as controller determines position of the user (col. 5 lines 15-25);

“wherein data.....said user” as remote data transmission (fig. 2, col. 3 lines 42-51)

As per claim 1, Leahy et al (6219045) does not explicitly teach a plurality of microphones arrayed to span the three coordinate axes of a three dimensional space, however, Wakisaka et al (5917944) teaches directional microphones (Fig. 8, subblocks 802,803; col. 12 lines 31-45; Wakisaka teaches the use of multiple multidirectional microphones wherein the number of microphones used is not limited) and an artisan with ordinary skill in the art of sound processing at the time of invention would readily recognize that the direction of sensitivity comprises a directional cone like volume. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of speech devices to modify the device of Leahy et al (6219045) with a microphone array because it would advantageously allow for pickup of ambient noise as well as voices from a defined direction (Wakisaka et al (5917944), col. 12 lines 31-45).

As per claim 3,18,19, Leahy et al (6219045) teaches transmission thru I/O device (fig. 2, col. 3 lines 42-51)

As per claim 4, Leahy et al (6219045) teaches video and sound (fig. 4)

As per claims 5-11, Leahy et al (6219045) teaches I/O of computing devices (including PDA's, wireless, and differing video input -> col. 3 lines 51-67).

As per claim 17, Leahy et al (6219045) teaches position determination (col. 5 lines 15-25).

3. Claims 12, 13, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Leahy et al (6219045) in view of Wakisaka et al (5917944) in further view of Geilhufe et al (6584439).

As per claims 12, 13, and 16, the combination of Leahy et al (6219045) in view of Wakisaka et al (5917944) teaches commands from the user (Fig. 4, subblocks 116, including speech and motion), but the combination of Leahy et al (6219045) in view of Wakisaka et al (5917944) does not explicitly teach voice commands; however, Geilhufe et al (6584439) teaches a GUI using voice commands to control the input from the user (col. 2 lines 50-67; col. 6 lines 53-65). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of user interface design to modify the teachings of the combination of Leahy et al (6219045) in view of Wakisaka et al (5917944) so that the devices within the combination of Leahy et al (6219045) in view of Wakisaka et al (5917944) would be voice controlled because it would advantageously allow the user to control the devices without requiring buttons (Geilhufe et al, col. 2 lines 63-66).

As per claim 16, Leahy et al (6219045) further teaches user position detection (col. 5 lines 15-25).

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Art Unit: 2655

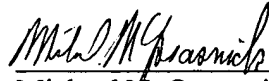
Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Opsasnick, telephone number (571)272-7623, who is available Tuesday-Thursday, 9am-4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Wayne Young, can be reached at (571)272-7582. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

mno
10/13/05


Michael N. Opsasnick
Examiner
Art Unit 2655